In the claims:

All claims standing for examination are reproduced below showing current amendments.

1.-13. (Cancelled)

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14. (Currently Amended) A method for managing functions for a plurality of appliances in a home or business, the appliances connected to control units having each a wireless communication interface for receiving step sequences and transmitting data, the method comprising steps of:

    (a) identifying each control unit uniquely electronically;

    (b) providing a single base station in the home or business, the base station having a port for communication with the Internet and a wireless communication interface for communicating with the plurality of control units; ~~and~~

    (c) downloading individual step sequences from an Internet site by the base station, the individual step sequences identified for individual ones of the control units, and transmitting the downloaded step sequences selectively to the individual ones of the control units, wherein the control units store the received step sequences in memory and access the memory to monitor and operate the connected appliances; and

    (d) adding a control at the home or business wherein the base station configures, through the respective wireless communication interfaces, any new control unit brought into the home or business by adding the control unit to a list managed by the base station, including assigning the control unit an address, and communicating to the associated web site details regarding the new control unit in a manner that the subscriber may monitor and control the appliance associated with the new control unit through the web site.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein, in step (c), the base station also receives status data from the control units identified as to the control unit sending the data, and forwards the status data to the Internet site.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the communication port is one of a standard serial or parallel communication port compatible with a personal computer (PC) and wherein a connected PC handles communication with the Internet for receiving the step sequences, and transfers the step sequences to the base station.

17. (Currently Amended) A control system for appliances in a home or business area, comprising:

a plurality of control units, individual ones of the units wired to sensors and actuators of individual ones of the appliances, the control units having each a microcontroller, a system memory, an I/O section, and a wireless communication interface for external communication;

a base station having a communication port to the Internet and a wireless communications interface for communicating with the plurality of control units; and

an Internet site executing software enabling a subscriber associated with the home or business to interact with the base station;

characterized in that the Internet site software provides an interface for the subscriber to review status of systems and appliances having connected control units in the associated home or business, and to author step sequences addressed for individual ones of the control units in the home or business, wherein the subscriber downloads the authored step sequences to the base station which sends them to the control units which store them in system memory and the control units access the system memory to monitor and operate the connected appliance, and control units are added at the home or business wherein the base station configures, through the respective wireless communication interfaces, any new control unit brought into the home or business by adding the control unit to a list managed by the base station, including assigning the control unit an address, and communicating to the associated web site details regarding the new control unit in a manner that the subscriber may monitor and control the appliance associated with the new control unit through the web site.

18. (Original) The control system of claim 17 wherein the base station comprises an Internet browser and an Internet-capable port for Internet access.

19. (Original) The control system of claim 17 wherein the base station has a standard serial or parallel port for connection to a personal computer, and the personal computer accomplishes necessary Internet browsing functions.

20. (Original) The control system of claim 17 wherein each control unit is configured to the base station by a specific address.

21. (Previously Amended) The control system of claim 17 wherein the subscriber has a specific web page on the Internet site, wherein all configured, installed and active control units in the home or business with which the subscriber is associated are indicated.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The control system of claim 21 wherein the base station, through compatible magnetic induction equipment installed in both the base station and any new control unit, configures any new control unit brought within a maximum induction range by adding the control unit to a list managed by the base station, including assigning the control unit an address, and communicating to the associated web site details regarding the new control unit in a manner that the subscriber may monitor and control the system or appliance associated with the new control unit through the web site.

24.-25. (Cancelled)